

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

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R 281930Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8069

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 5065

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS CASC BR

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR RAISES THREATS TO US CITIZENS WITH JUSTICE
MINISTER

1. DURING COURTESY CALL ON JUSTICE MINISTER ARMANDO FALCAO, AMBASSADOR MENTIONED PROBLEMS AFFECTING VARIOUS US CITIZENS WHOSE LANDHOLDINGS AND, REPORTEDLY, WHOSE LIVES ARE UNDER THREAT BY SQUATTERS OR OTHER HOSTILE ELEMENTS. AMBASSADOR CITED THE LONG-STANDING DAVIS CASE IN THE STATE OF PARA, WHERE THREE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY WERE MURDERED IN 1976, AND NOTED THAT THERE NOW SEEM TO BE TWO OTHER CASES IN WHICH US CITIZEN LANDOWNERS BELIEVE A THREAT TO THEIR LIVES EXISTS: ONE IN THE STATE OF BAHIA AND ONE IN THE STATE OF MATTO GROSSO. AMBASSADOR ASKED THE MINISTER IF HE HAD ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR DEALING WITH THIS TYPE OF PROBLEM.

2. FALCAO RESPONDED POSITIVELY AND SHOWED HIMSELF FULLY KNOWLEDGE-ABLE ABOUT DAVIS CASE. HE TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON SOME OF THE MEASURES, INCLUDING THE SENDING OF A SMALL MILITARY UNIT TO THEIR LAND IN JANUARY, THE THE GOB HAD TAKEN IN THE DAVIS CASE. THE MINISTER CITED THE DIFFICULTY IN PROVIDING PERMANENT PROTECTION AND SECURITY, HOWEVER, NOTING THAT MANY SIMILAR CASES (INVOLVING BRASILIANS ON BOTH SIDES) WERE OCCURRING IN SPARSELY POPULATED REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THE SITUATION WAS, IN EFFECT, MUCH LIKE THE AMERICAN OLD WEST. FALCAO SAID, IN FACT, THAT A COUSIN HOF HIS HAD BEEN
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KILLED SOMETIMEAGO IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. FALCAO ASKED THAT HE BE PROVIDED WITH DETAILS OF THE OTHER TWO CASES MENTIONED BY THE AMBASSADOR AND GAVE ASSURANCES THAT HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD TO PROTECT THOSE INVOLVED. HE INDICATED THAT THIS WOULD PRIMARILY ENTAIL ALERTING THE LOCAL STATE SECRETARIES FOR PUBLIC SECURITY AND THE LOCAL DETACHMENTS OF THE BRAZILIAN FEDERAL

POLICE(WHICH ARE UNDER THE JUSTIC MINISTRY'S JURISDICTION) TO
BRASILIA'S INTEREST IN THE PROBLEM. AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT
MAKING CLEAR THE GOB'S HIGH-LEVEL INTERST WOULD BE USEFUL IN HELPING
TO AVERT ANOTHER POTENTIAL TRAGEDY.

4. EMBASSY DELIVERED MEMO ON THE THREE CASES TO JUSTIC MINISTER'S
OFFICE, JUNE 28. (TEXT POUCHED TO ARA/ECA).
SAYRE

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